

been filled up so far is likely to hit the chances of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates because most of the vacancies that lie unfilled are those reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The information on total number of posts/vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in various Ministries/Departments is not centrally maintained. However, according to the information available, the 'backlog' of vacancies in respect of SCs was 5171 and that in respect of STs was 6662. Of this, recruitment had been made in 1254 SC vacancies and 853 ST vacancies.

(b) The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries to process the recommendations of the Pay Commission. Appropriate decisions would be arrived at, keeping in view, inter-alia, the policy on reservation of posts for SCs and STs.

Electoral Rolls

1108. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVEENCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review its policy of revising electoral rolls every alternate year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that it is reviewing its existing policy introduced in 1993 of intensive revision of electoral rolls every alternate year, as the experience gained by it has shown that increasing the frequency and reducing the interval for intensive revision do not achieve the purpose of having more accurate and up-to-date rolls.

Smuggling of Narcotics

1109. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons arrested and convicted for smuggling of Narcotics in the North-Eastern States during each of the last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As per information available, details of number of persons arrested and convicted for smuggling of narcotics in

North-Eastern States during the last three years are given below :-

Year	No. of Persons	
	Arrested	Convicted
1994	1420	3
1995	611	3
1996 (Prov.)	427	12

(b) Action against the offenders is initiated in accordance with the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985.

[Translation]

Agro based Industries

1110. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan for expansion of the agro-based industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Agro-based industries are being promoted by the KVIC which has taken various steps to develop them. The KVIC provides financial assistance by way of grant and loans to its registered Institutions, Cooperative Societies, State KVIBs and individual entrepreneurs on the basis of viable Projects submitted by them. KVIC also provides technical assistance, makes arrangements for supply of improved tools and implements and assists in training and marketing of the products produced by the rural artisans. The major Agro-based activities promoted by the KVIC are bee-keeping, ghani oil, honey, cane gur and khandsari, palm gur, processing of cereals and pulses, fruits and vegetables, fibres, forest plants and fruits for medicinal purposes, etc. KVIC has also launched a National Programme on bee-keeping to boost the production of honey and to provide gainful employment to rural artisans. The development of agro-based industries under the purview of KVIC is a continuous process.

Increase in Prices of Vehicles

1111. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether automobile manufacturing companies are consistently increasing the prices of their vehicles inspite of the relaxation in excise duty by the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Although, there has been an increase in the price of vehicles during the last two years, such increases have generally been only to the extent of about 6%. The increase in automobile prices is less than the general price increase in the country. This increase is mainly due to increase in the cost of inputs such as raw materials, components, capital, power, etc.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Industries with Foreign Investment

1112. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals have been received from abroad for setting up of industries in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on December 31, 1996, State-wise alongwith names of the countries;

(c) the total investment proposed to be made therein; and

(d) the details of survey report regarding generation of employment opportunities as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) A total number of 2303 proposals (Financial and Technical) involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 36146.80 Crores have been approved during the period from 1.1.96 to 31.12.96.

The details of such proposals viz., name and country of foreign collaborator, equity investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

(d) Details of employment generation with specific linkage to foreign direct investment is not centrally maintained. It is relevant that when the foreign investment is made in the Industry, it would result in generation of employment opportunities.

Additional Central Assistance to M.P.

1113. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tenth Finance Commission has not recommended for providing planning revenue deficit grant to Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the State will face difficulty in mobilising revenue expenditure for planning and lesser resources will be available for planning; and

(c) if so, whether the Government will propose to reconsider to provide additional central assistance to

the State for financing of the planning and special problems of the State to supplement the resource crunch arising out of not providing the above grant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) has not recommended plan revenue deficit grant to States.

(b) and (c) The total devolution to Madhya Pradesh as per the award of Tenth Finance Commission for the period 1995-2000 is estimated to be Rs. 16094 crores as compared to Rs. 7843 crores recommended by the Ninth Finance Commission over the preceding quinquennium 1990-95. There is adequate increase in the total devolution to State as recommended by Tenth Finance Commission.

The requirement of resources for funding the plan is assessed by Planning Commission in consultation with States. The Annual Plan of Madhya Pradesh for 1996-97 as finalised by Planning Commission is fully funded. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to give additional Central assistance to the State in addition to what has been allocated by Planning Commission.

[English]

National Infrastructure Development Corporation

1114. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Infrastructure Development Corporation have examined the details of infrastructure improvements to invite foreign finance for developing Indian economy; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the areas of research made by the above Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Infrastructure Development Finance Company announced in the Budget speech for the year 1996-97 has been incorporated as a non-Government company on 30.1.97. As per the Memorandum of Association of the company, the objects of the company inter-alia include mobilising capital from domestic and foreign investors, providing financial assistance, guarantees and other form of credit enhancement to companies engaged in developing or financing of infrastructure projects in the country. The company is currently in the process of preparing a detailed business plan.

Fifth Pay Commission

1115. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has recommended recast of Ministries;